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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Acteen is passionate about missions

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

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BAPTISTS

Taylor Townsend instantly presents the image of an All-American young woman. Her contributions to Kingdom work through Acteens and many other ministry opportunities set her even farther apart from the pack.

Taylor has been chosen as a Mississippi State Acteen Panelist, 2011 National Acteen Panelist, Student of the Year (from the Flowood Chamber of Commerce), and Metro Student of the Year for Mississippi Boys and Girls Clubs (Community Service acknowledgement).

The Jackson Preparatory School 2011 graduate writes, "All of these things are mission-oriented and are because of God's grace and for His glory."

Her Acteens involvement as a national panelist — one of only six young women selected from across the Southern Baptist Convention — took her to the convention's annual meeting in Phoenix last June for special recognition. She was also invited to be on the program at Blume July 13-16 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando.

Blume began as the National Acteens Convention in 1972. The meeting has since bloomed into an intense, fun, four-day focus on missions for teenage girls and collegiate young women. It is held every four years, and over 2,500 girls participated in 2011.

Taylor comes from a family of high achievers, including father Bill Townsend, vice-president for advancement and legal counsel to the president of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton; mother Cindy Townsend, director of the Global Leadership Institute at Jackson Prep; and brother William, a tenth-grader at Jackson Prep.

"I got involved with Acteens when I was in seventh grade," said Taylor, a member of First Church, Jackson. "My church in Louisiana had a group then, but soon after that they changed Acteens to choir and I no longer had a group to go to every week."

"I still wanted to be a part of what they offered on Wednesday nights. Ever since then, Acteens has played a huge role in my life. It began in GAs, but it introduced me to the world of missions, what missions is all about, and really encouraged me and sparked the passion I have for missions."

After living for a while in Texas, the Townsend family moved back to the Jackson area.

Taylor attended GA camp at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, and there gave her heart to missions. "At camp I learned about missions around the world, but also learned how I could serve at home," she said.

"I wanted to be involved in Acteens, so my mom and I actually started the Acteens group at First Baptist last year. We've only had it



LEADING IN WORSHIP — Taylor Townsend, a member of First Church, Jackson, and one of only six National Acteens Panelists for 2011, sings during the Blume conference in Orlando in June. She has received a number of awards and recognitions for her involvement in church and community organizations. (Photo courtesy of the Townsend family)

for a year. This year we started with girls in the seventh through twelfth grades. We prayed for twelve people to come because there were twelve disciples, and we met after church on Sundays during lunch.

"Normally, we'd bring in a missionary. For instance, we heard a missionary who served on the west coast of Africa and in Paris. We brought in a guy from the Bahamas who works at Seattle Drip, and he's translating the Bible into his language. Another girl from Japan who dances with Ballet Magnificat! shared with us about the darkness in Japan."

Ballet Magnificat! is a Christian dance company based in Jackson. It was founded by Kathy Thibodeaux, a silver medalist in the II USA International Ballet Competition in 1982, who continues to serve as the company's artistic director.

"The Lord has been doing great things in our group at First Baptist. We've had twelve or more every time we've met. We've really challenged the girls this year to have a passion for compassion," Taylor continued.

"Each girl has taken on a missions project for the year. One girl hosted a WorldCrafts party at our house. Another has collected blankets for St. Dominic Hospital (in Jackson). We just want to serve God where they are."

WorldCrafts is a ministry of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention that seeks to develop sustainable, fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around the world, with a vision to offer an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life to every person on earth through presentation of the Gospel.

When asked about her role as a national panelist, Taylor said, "We help plan and lead in the Blume conference. We got to be

leaders in that. We write for The Mag [Acteens magazine], rotating between us monthly. We get to speak different places to encourage Acteens and talk about having a passion for missions and for people. We gave our testimonies at the Southern Baptist Convention during the Woman's Missionary Union meetings. We're busy."

Taylor offered some thoughts on how to get a church involved in Acteens.

"It's easy to start. Our focus is missions, because that's what God has called us to do. You don't have to meet weekly; we meet once a month. We want to make it easy for people [to be involved]."

"Kids are so involved in so many things, it's hard to do it on a weeknight so we do it on Sunday afternoons right after church because everyone is already there. It's encouraging to talk about missions, about what God is doing around the world, and what He's doing right here."

"It's easy to start, even with a couple of girls. It could start as a Bible study and turn into Acteens."

As a state panelist, Taylor was also involved in the Ignite! conference in March at Garaywa. "We helped plan it, and led in some breakout conferences," she said.

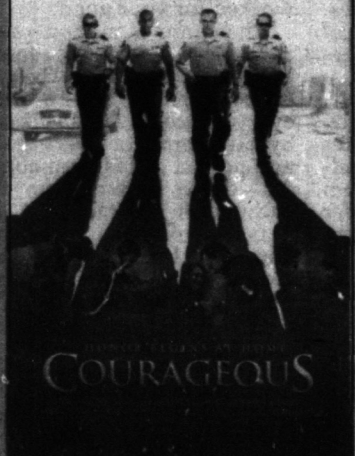
Taylor plans to attend Mississippi College in Clinton and major in biology. Both of her parents hold degrees from there.

"I'm sure the Lord has called me into missions and ministry, but I'm not sure what capacity that may be. I'm still praying about that and seeking Him," she said.

Quoting Nobelist Mother Teresa, a Catholic nun who devoted her life to the care of lepers in the streets of Calcutta, India, Taylor said, "Small things done with great love change the world."

Only eight days until
the premiere of

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Church violence: a growing reality

On Sunday morning, Sept. 18, Jeremiah Fogle allegedly killed his wife in their home in Lakeland, Fla., then calmly drove the Greater Faith Christian Center Church where he shot and seriously wounded two ministers. Police don't yet know why Fogle chose to go to the church and start shooting.

Last week one of our own, Wedgwood Church in Ft. Worth, observed a sad anniversary. On September 15, 1999, Larry Gene Ashbrook stepped into the church's sanctuary and killed seven people before sitting down on a pew and turning his gun on himself. Seven other people were wounded but survived.

Just a few years later, Wedgwood Church Pastor Al Meredith found himself ministering to the people of First Church in Maryville, Ill. — another of our own — after their pastor, Fred Winters, was gunned down in a brazen attack while he was preaching at the morning worship service.

Is your church ready yet to take church security seriously?

Southern Baptists are not immune to society's sicknesses. Mississippi Baptists aren't, either. In our day and age, we are forced to contemplate crises in our churches that were unthinkable just a few years ago. It's alarming to know that so many Mississippi Baptist churches aren't prepared.

"Security is extremely misunderstood in the Christian community. Christian leaders really need to understand that incidents like this could happen in any

congregation," says Jeffrey Hawkins, founder and executive director of the Christian Security Network in Cincinnati, Oh. He estimates that more than 75% of America's churches have no security plan in place, should such an emergency occur.

The Christian Security Network is a national organization dedicated to the advancement of security, safety, and emergency planning for Christian churches, schools, ministries, and missionaries, according to information on the organization's web site.

"Growing up in Chicago, the church was my safe haven, a place to get away from problems on the streets and gangs," Hawkins recalls. "The church was respected, and no one would think to go in and commit a violent act or steal from the church. The doors used to be left unlocked. That can't happen anywhere these days. Churches are treated by the criminals no differently than any other buildings. My old church is now locked tight."

"The church is seen as a soft target and one of opportunity... no different than any other building. It has persons they can harm and property they can steal."

The major emphasis in church security in recent years has been the preschool and children's departments. It's reassuring to see all the steps churches have taken to protect the children in their care from pedophiles and the like, but danger lurks all through the church.

"Offices, government buildings, malls, and so on have all stepped up security

because of the increased risk, but churches have not. Thus they remain a vulnerable, predictable, unsecured target," he points out.

What can Mississippi Baptist churches do to prepare for these threats?

"Become aware, become educated, and then prepare," Hawkins says. "The first step is a risk assessment to determine what are their particular risks and threats. Even though all churches and ministries share the same base-level risks, how they should protect themselves and plan for emergencies should be different."

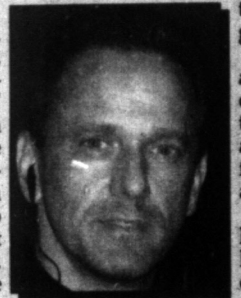
"The risk assessment looks at everything from internal controls to security measures to emergency plans — it is an all-encompassing evaluation from which to build security and emergency plans."

Next, churches can talk with local law enforcement officials, local private consultants, and organizations like the Christian Security Network to begin putting together a plan based on the risk assessment.

It is also very important to consult with the church's legal counsel before proceeding with implementation of any church security plan.

Mississippi's Baptist churches, from the smallest country churches to the largest city churches, must initiate a top-to-bottom review right away. It may be burdensome, but church violence is a growing reality everywhere.

Have a plan in place. Like a good insurance policy, it's too late to get one after tragedy strikes.



Hawkins

GUEST OPINION:

Is life really like Forrest Gump?

By David Jeremiah
El Cajon, Ca.



Life is like a box of chocolates," said Forrest Gump in the 1994 movie of the same name. "You never know what you're gonna get."

I seldom bite into a piece I don't like and when I think of life's little pleasures, I don't want to forget to thank God. After all, He made the cocoa trees and beans, the sunshine and the rain, the fruits and grains — and the Bible says He opens His hand and satisfies His children with good things (Psalm 104:28).

John 1:16 drives this home with an unusual phrase: "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace." When you read that verse the first time, it sounds as though some words are missing but the actual Greek phrase is grace "anti" grace.

The word anti is a Greek preposition that can have several meanings. The New King James Version translates it "for," but most linguists prefer using the word, "upon."

Out of the fullness of His own grace, Jesus gives us grace upon grace, grace on top of grace.

Think of the ocean surf, one wave coming after another in endless succession. In his commentary on John, F.F. Bruce says that the followers of Christ draw from the ocean of divine fullness grace upon grace — one wave of grace

being constantly replaced by a fresh one. "There is no limit to the supply of grace which God has placed at His people's disposal in Christ," observes Bruce.

It's like the clouds of Noah's day that kept pouring out rain, the granaries in Joseph's days that held endless reserves of grain, the rock in the wilderness that kept pouring out the water, the cruise of oil in Elijah's time that kept issuing oil, and the cup in Psalm 23 that kept overflowing.

The New International Version simply says: "From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another."

Ephesians 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." Psalm 68:19 says sim-

ilarly, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits." Shame on us for moping around all day like desolate wanderers in the bleak woods or barren moors. We can't always be happy, but a rod of joy should run down the backbone of our attitudes. Though life has its share of burdens, God has an endless variety of ways to bless us.

We're blessed, for example, with friendly people. Sure, there are plenty of grouches around but someone is smiling right now not far from you. It might be at the corner market, in the softball bleachers, at a church function, or across the counter at Starbucks.

If you'll look for a smile, you'll find one pretty easily and if you'll smile — it happens when you tell the corners of your mouth to relax and twist upward — you'll discover a good many more smiling people.

We're blessed with natural beauty around us. Lift your eyes from this page and glance out a window. See the clouds or sunshine?

If it's evening, do you see the moon and stars?

If there's a houseplant nearby, take a moment to study its leaves.

Listen for a bird's song and watch for flowers along the walkways.

We also see God's goodness in His providential alignment of life's circumstances. How wonderfully He weaves together the good and bad, the sad and glad, into a tapestry of praise. Look back over your life and notice how seemingly bad events have worked for your good.

There are a million other varieties of God's goodness. If life is truly like a box of chocolates, we know that every piece is hand-dipped by our Lord, for every good and perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights (James 1:17).

Let's savor the moments and thank Him for richly providing us with all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17).

Jeremiah is senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Ca., affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Miss. missionary gets special appointment

BROOKHAVEN, Ms. (Special) — In an apartment hotel in the progressive, antebellum town of Brookhaven in southwest Mississippi resides an 80-year-old missionary who is living every day for Jesus.

On her latticed patio, she has planted a small garden filled with fragrant flowers, luscious cucumbers, and sweet tomatoes. She makes mayhaw, grape, and plum jellies from scratch and bakes dump cake from fresh blueberries and peaches picked from her own bushes and trees.

Her name is Betty Barham Newsom, and she is a North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary. Her assignment is to visit the churches in her nine-county circuit and educate them on the importance of supporting God's work by supporting missionaries through the Cooperative Program, the Annir Armstrong Easter Offering, and other special offerings.

Newsome is also a strong advocate for the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

In the first 12 months of her NAMB appointment, she logged 30,991 miles, visiting 44 different churches and making 182 revisits. From January-June 2011, she made 86 church and church-related visits.

What drives Newsome to serve the Lord so energetically when many would retire? "It is my love for Jesus and His love for me," she says.

Betty's sweet, gentle face is known by most in the area, and her godly spirit is well-respected. Sometimes she receives e-mail from people who request that she pray for a loved one. Betty feels honored to do this. "That means a lot to me," she says. "It is an acknowledgement of my ministry. I will pray for anyone who requests it and I do for some who are not aware."

Each visit to a church is an exciting and new event. She never knows what she will encounter. It is all part of the grand adventure she is on. Sometimes she speaks to children's groups and sometimes to groups of women and men. She seeks not only to encourage support for missionaries, but to meet needs as well.

On one occasion she was speaking to a WMU group and they told her they were having trouble individually affording their treasured Missions Mosaic magazines. Betty suggested they inquire about placing a request with the church budget committee to put the cost in the church budget. They did that, and the problem was solved.

Once a pastor's wife expressed concern about some things her son might encounter as he was serving overseas. Most specifically, she was concerned about leeches and other creatures that might be lurking in baptismal waters. Betty was able to draw on her many years of experience as a missionary serving in Africa to ease the mother's fears.



Betty Barham Newsom

This has been the Lord's plan for her all along, she said, and He has been shaping her for it since she was born Nov. 10, 1930 in Winnsboro, La. It was the Great Depression, and her family had traveled there from Lawrence County in search of work. They lived there about three years and then returned to Mississippi.

Betty grew up in a Christian community of aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. Part of that time her father was working out of the country in Civil Service, but he knew his family was safe and loved by people who loved the Lord. Betty doesn't remember a time that she wasn't in church with her family.

The big family, with God's help, was self-sufficient — raising vegetables, fruits, and meats. All these were canned for the winter. Often the children would see drifters come through who would stop for a meal. Betty's grandmother always welcomed them, and the children saw Christian charity modeled.

Although the children were required to work the fields, Betty recalls a happy childhood and an uncle who made it a happy time for them. "At the end of a hard day of hoeing cotton or working in the huge gardens or some other chore, my dear uncle would take us to the creek for a swim. At that period in time, there were nine cousins. He taught us all to swim. What a treat!"

Back then, some people traveled to church in wagons. Betty's uncle bought a school bus and drove children to school. On Sundays, he drove a route to take people to church. People much preferred to ride the bus to church than to ride in the wagons.

At age 16, Newsome, a lover of God's Word, became a Bible teacher. She says she has never been far from God and has always listened for His guidance and direction. Little did Betty know then that He would radically change her life by sending her to Africa.

Her African "adventure" began with the death of her first husband at age 50. With two children still at home, Betty concentrated first on providing for her family. The Lord led her to pursue nursing. She completed studies at the Baptist Hospital in Jackson (now Baptist Health Systems, Inc.), the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, and the University of London in London, England.

She worked as a registered nurse for one year to gain nursing experience, and then applied to serve as a missionary through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

At that time, there was a severe famine in Ethiopia. The mission board called Betty to go help and, of course, she did. After a year of service, she

received a four-year appointment, serving five years total. The medical needs in Africa were tremendous. Many times she worked to help people who had diseases that could have been prevented and rarely happen stateside, such as goiters caused by an iodine deficiency.

During her later time in Ethiopia, drought and famine spawned political instability and Betty was evacuated to Kenya. The trip across the Serengeti was one she will never forget. She worked in Kenya for a short time and then in Tanzania and Zimbabwe. When the civil war in Ethiopia ended, she returned there to serve the last 10 months of her appointment. She was 62 at the time.

Betty returned home to Lawrence County. One day in church, she noticed an old flame she had known when she was 19 years old. Forty-seven years had passed and the Lord brought him again into her life. The couple was happily married for 15 years, serving the Lord together. Betty continued to serve as a nurse on weekends and her husband would meet her for Sunday lunch.

In 2009, he passed away and Betty found herself slipping into depression. That's when God showed her it was time to get up, get out, and get busy. He opened the door for her to become a Missions Service Corps missionary with the North American Mission Board, with a two-year appointment in Mississippi. She jumped in with both feet.

Betty says she has no plans to retire from serving the Lord. She hopes to write another book and to continue to promote WMU through her county Baptist association.

She gives this advice to those who would seek to truly experience God intimately and to walk lockstep with Him: "There will be problems along life's way. Children might disappoint you on occasion. Stay close to the Lord and know that you are in His will. Don't be so busy with children that you neglect time with Him. Stay close and ask, 'Is this you, Lord, or something else?'"

Looking back

40 years ago

Mississippi Baptists dispatch six top personnel of the Mississippi Disaster Relief Task Force in the wake of the national tragedies in New York and Washington, D.C., and rush \$2,500 in disaster relief funds from the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering to the Baptist Convention of New York for their response effort.

20 years ago

The newly-created Horizon Community Church meets for the first time in the Northpark Cinema in Ridgeland. The contemporary church is perhaps the first of its kind in the state. Later in the day people paid to see Terminator 2, but for the moment the focus was on Christian worship.

50 years ago

A change in the Southern Baptist constitution that would permit African-Americans to serve as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries is proposed by the Baptist Standard, the weekly Texas Baptist newspaper.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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JXA, NVRSV YXAREX
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EGJXA, IHY DGPX
UEXXQRHUA RH QVX
FIEWXQA, IHY, QVX
VRUVXAQ AXIQA RH
QVX AOHIUGUMXA,
IHY QVX SVRXC EGGFA
IQ CXIAQA.
DMWX QNXHQO:
CGEQO-ARZ

CLUE: N = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: "Luke Twenty-One: Thirty-Six"

REVENTION

Years ago when my kids were small they must have felt like they were in church all of the time. They were there Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, Vacation Bible School, mission celebrations, revivals, youth gatherings, any special thing that was going on, and from time to time state and national conventions. As we were preparing to go to one of the meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, they wanted to know when we were going to the revention. While they had gotten things kind of tangled up and confused, they knew that it was going to be a meeting where they were going to have to sit still, a lot of people would be there, and it would last for a good while.

Although it may have been a little strange mixture put together in a child's mind, revention may accurately reflect what happens when the people of God get together for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. I want to encourage each one of you to make plans to come to the Mississippi Baptist Convention on November 1-2 at First Church, Jackson, and to be a part of what God is doing among us. Furthermore, I want to encourage you to be a part of the meetings before the meeting which occur on October 31.

There are many meetings taking place prior to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. All of them are significant and used of God to bless lives. Some of the events taking place



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

on Monday, October 31, include: Acts 1:8 Celebration, Mississippi Council Bivocational/Small Church Meeting and Supper, Ministers' Wives Conference, and Pastors Conference. The following morning Gary Richardson, pastor of North Oxford Church and the president of our Convention, will call us into order for the 176th Annual Mississippi Baptist Convention. Let me just share with you a few things that are important about the Convention meeting.

One, it is a time of inspiration. There will be great times of worship at all of the meetings and also in the Convention sessions. The Bible Treasures at the Convention sessions will be led by Dr. Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of the First Church of Dallas, Texas. You will hear our President's Address and the Convention Sermon brought by James Lewis, pastor of DeSoto Hills Church in Southaven. The closing message on Wednesday morning will be brought by Dr. Michael Catt, senior pastor of Sherwood Church in Albany, Georgia. His message will be both timely and interesting.

His church has produced the movies Flywheel, Facing the Giants, Fireproof, and now Courageous, the great movie with the most recent impact on our country and our churches. Dr. Catt is the executive producer and in addition to sharing a Word from the Lord, he will share with us what the Lord is doing in that ministry.

The inspiration that comes from attending the Convention is not restricted to just hearing songs, sermons, and presentations from the various areas of our Convention work, but includes the wonderful opportunities to see and fellowship with people you may not have seen for months or maybe even years. I recognize that for many of you Facebook is important, but I would share with you that when it comes to meaningful relationships, face-to-face is even more important. So come and be blessed.

The Convention is also a time of information. The theme of the Convention is *Telling the Story of Jesus*. The theme grows out of what happened following Jesus' command to us in Acts 1:8. They

went everywhere Telling the Story of Jesus. If there was ever a time for the church to feel the urgency and live out the passion of Telling the Story of Jesus, it is now. We will be hearing ways in which all of us can be united in every church, community, town, and village, joined together in one voice, song, and proclamation to tell who Jesus is, what Jesus can do, and see how His Gospel can impact our world. He is the One who has changed our lives and will forever be the unchanging focus of our work.

Finally, the Convention is a time of investigation. Every year as a result of our gathering for the Convention, I hear from pastors, staff, and lay people who have those kinds of personal, internal reevaluations of what they are doing and sometimes not doing, what God is challenging them to become, and what He is speaking to them about what they do not need to become. I think if we come praying, seeking the Lord, and looking for an encounter with Him, He will make Himself known. We will leave to go back to the task that He has assigned us to with fresh new hearts for the work.

I hope that each of you can come. Encourage your pastor and staff to come. They may not feel that they need to attend, but we need them and they can be a blessing.

The author can be contacted at
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MS POSITIONS

YOUTH MINISTER WANTED: 9-8-11 First Baptist Church of Lumberton, MS seeks a Christ-centered, part-time leadership for Grades 7 - 12 to lead their Wednesday night Bible Study, plan and conduct their summer program, and encourage them to walk with Jesus. Salary is negotiable. Call Phil Jones 601.796.8154.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FANNIN IN BRANDON, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE FULL TIME POSITION OF WORSHIP PASTOR. Please e-mail resumes to das2166@yahoo.com or fax to 601-829-3406, attention: Personnel Committee. For additional information, call the church office at 601-829-1004.

OLD RICE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON, MS IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Old Rice Road Baptist Church, 82 Old Rice Road, Madison, MS 39110 or via e-mail to ormbc_hr_mailbox@comcast.net. Submittal deadline is October 1, 2011.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH. Resumes may be emailed to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org or mailed to P.O. Box 591, Brookhaven, MS 39602.

ROSELAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH IN PICAYUNE, MS IS SEEKING AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR/MINISTER OF EDUCATION. Send resumes by e-mail to rpbcpastor@yahoo.com or Roseland Park Baptist Church, Associate Pastor/Minister of Education Search Committee, 2130 Highway 11 N, Picayune, MS 39466.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Send resumes to: Charlotte Newell, 1017 Common Street, Wesson, MS. 39191 or email to wanchar2353@aol.net.

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HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 22, 2011

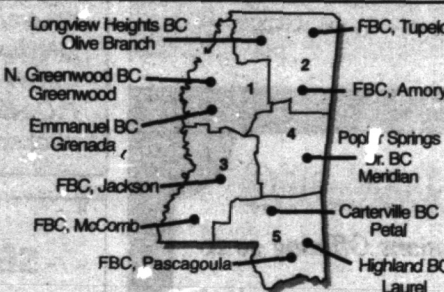
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AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS - 2012

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE C-Church, O-Office
Thursday, January 26, 2012 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.			
Area 2	FBC, 300 Church St., Tupelo, 38804	Randy Wood	C-662-842-1327
Area 2	FBC, 201 1st Ave., Amory, 38821	Ray Burke	C-662-256-7131
Area 3	FBC, 431 N. State St., Jackson, 39201	Wyndy South	O-601-292-3272
Area 4	Poplar Springs Dr BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr, Meridian, 39305	Michael Gibson	C-601-485-5106
Area 5	Cartersville BC, 115 Cartersville Rd., Petal, 39465	Kristopher Smith	C-601-584-9457
Area 3	FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb, 39648	Bruce Pruitt	C-601-684-2971
Area 5	FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave, Pascagoula, 39567	Jane Wilkinson	C-228-762-2343
Area 5	Highland BC, 2513 N 7th Ave. Laurel, 39440	Michaelle Harrison	C-601-428-8493
Friday, January 27, 2012 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.			
Area 2	Longview Heights BC, 4501 Goodman Rd., Olive Branch, 38654	Ada Cates Blake Krumalis	C-662-895-1900
Saturday, January 28, 2012 - 9:30-noon			
Area 1	Emmanuel BC, 245 Meadowbrook Rd., Grenada, 38901	Barry Worrell	C-662-226-5316
Area 1	North Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, 38930	Patricia Ethridge	C-662-453-2801

Note: Area changes effective
January 2011

For more information contact
Wyndy South
Church Music Department
601-292-3272
wsouth@mbcb.org



STUDENT MINISTER'S RETREAT NOVEMBER 14-16, 2011 LAKE TIAK O'KHATA • LOUISVILLE, MISS.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

STEP ONE: Register with the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for the actual conference. [There is no charge for the conference itself.] Mail the registration form to:

MBCB, Discipleship & Family Ministry
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

OR e-mail René Edwards, with ALL of the information from the form, at redwards@mbcb.org.

STEP TWO: Make your lodging/meal reservations directly with Lake Tiak O'Khata. Make sure you let them know you're with Mississippi Baptist Student Minister's Retreat. Lake Tiak O'Khata, 888.645.6151 or 662.773.7853

2011 Lake Tiak O'Khata Pricing: Single - \$215.65, one to a room; Double - \$143.89 per person, two to a room; Triple - \$119.35 per person, three to a room; Quad - \$98.75 per person, four to a room. Rooms must be individually reserved and guaranteed with a deposit by the release date of October 28. Reservations must be made with the motel, and you are responsible for securing your own roommate(s). Cancellation policy is one week prior to arrival date. Availability of rooms is limited.

Meals are available for individual purchase for those who do not stay at Lake Tiak O'Khata.

If you choose not to stay at Lake Tiak O'Khata, you will be responsible for paying for individual meals you eat in the restaurant during the retreat.

Mother/Daughter Overnight

is coming up at Garaywal

Join us Sept. 30-Oct. 1 or Oct. 14-15
(Friday evening through
lunch on Saturday)
1st-6th grade GA girls and their
moms are invited

Register today by visiting us on the Web at
www.mbcb.org

(Events > Woman's Missionary Union
> Mother/Daughter Overnight)

Locate and open the registration form,
print, complete and mail.

Contact rkeels@mbcb.org for more information

CSC '11
College Student Conference 2011
Cooperates Baptist Church
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1

Speaker: Ben Stuart [Breakaway College Station]
For all college students
Find opportunities to be involved
Get info about summer missions

Music: Ross King [College Station]

Contact your BSU director or church minister or register or contact Collegiate Ministry @ 800.748.1651 \$8 registration fee

Sponsored by Collegiate Ministry and Baptist Student Union • Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

A Woman's Guide to Joyful Living
Rhonda H. Kelley

MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE
Monday, October 31, 2011
FBC Chapel, Jackson
1:15 - 4:45 p.m.

State Missions Goal: \$2,000,000

Your contributions to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering go to fund ministries like:

- Church Planting
- Cross Cultural Ministries
- College and University Outreach
- Community Mission Projects
- Disaster Relief
- Port Ministry

Please pray about what God would have you discover during Mississippi's state missions emphasis. Also, pray to discover what God wants you to give through the Margaret Lackey Offering.

Undiscovered

GROW Your Church Through GIVING

Have a one-day
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We will provide: Sunday School lessons
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Jerry W. Mixon
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P.O. Box 530
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If interested,
call toll-free
1-800-748-1651
or in Jackson,
601-292-3347.

SBC Seminary Extension Directors AND Associational Missions Directors BREAKFAST

During the Mississippi Baptist
Convention

Nov. 1
7-8 a.m.

Baptist Building Chapel

Please notify Keith Gordon, 601.292.3307 or
kgordon@mbcb.org if you will attend.
Wives are also invited to attend.

Randy Williams, SBC Seminary Extension Director will be available to answer any questions about the program and/or starting one in your association.

Bivo/Small Church Council Meeting
Oct. 31, 3 p.m.
Baptist Building Sky Room, 4th Floor

Mississippi Baptist Christian Educators Fellowship Fall Luncheon

October 31, 2011
First Baptist Church, Jackson
CLC Auditorium

Focus Group
Pastors
Ministers of Education
Youth Ministers
Other Age Group Leadership

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Cost: \$10 - (Meal)

Personnel
Larry Leblanc - Pastor - FBC, Summit
Craig Richardson - Discipleship - FBC, Summit
Steve Stone - Assoc. Exec. Dir., Church Growth, MBCB
Jackson

Features
"Telling the Rest of the Story"
Break-out Sessions
Update on the movie *Courageous*
Panel on "Where God is at Work"

Reservations
Meal reservations are required. To request a reservation form e-mail Paul Harrell at pharrell@mbcb.org or call 601.927.7237.

MBCEF Program Leaders
Bill Ready
President
AMD, Kemper

Brian Frank
President Elect
Minister of Education
FBC, Picayune

RA DAY 2011

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE • CLINTON • NOVEMBER 5, 2011

Special presentation by
Terry Vandevanter
"The Snake Man"

PLUS
MISSIONARIES
FOOTBALL GAME
MUSIC

Fall Bible Drill Retreat October 7-8, 2011 Garaywa • Clinton, Mississippi

Includes program
tracks for

- ★ Children Grades 4-6
- ★ Children's Bible Drill teachers
- ★ Students Grades 7-12
- ★ Student Bible Drill teachers
- ★ Student Speakers
Tournament (Grades 10-12)

Questions > dbrashler@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

"Yours, LORD, is the kingdom ... In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks ..."

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Pray for: **Burton* and Margaret Schmitz**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Paul and Donna* Worsham**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **George and Geraldine* Smith**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Uganda through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Arnold* and Margie* Austin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through church planting, church and home outreach, and encounter evangelism.

Pray for: **Janna Smith***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting.

Pray for: **Richard and Martha* Beal**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach and serving through financial administration.

Pray for: **Thomas Smith***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Peru by providing regional office support.

Pray for: **David and Laurie* Bledsoe**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Lane Vance***, IMB missionary ministering to European Peoples in France through evangelism.

Pray for: **Donald* and Teresa* Bolls**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach evangelism and agriculture missions.

Pray for: **Marty* and Mary* Roberts**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the United States through strategy coordination, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **David* and Regina* White**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Steven* and Ruth* Robertson**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach, evangelism, and financial administration support.

Pray for: **Floyd and Sylvia* Wingo**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Sept. 23 – Oct. 6, 2011

Music Leadership Training School Open For Enrollment

October begins the second of eight courses offered at seven locations in Mississippi sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in cooperation with the Providence Learning Center of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Worship Planning" will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

First Baptist Church, Lyman – beginning Oct. 18
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Louis White, Teacher, (C) 228-832-2159, (cell) 228-860-9616

Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian – beginning Oct. 10
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Buddy McElroy, Teacher, (cell) 601-938-8668, (H) 601-679-1887

First Baptist Church, Cleveland – beginning Oct. 11
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Alan Berry, Teacher, (C) 662-843-2701, (H) 662-402-5645

Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven – beginning Oct. 24
7-9 p.m.

Mark Hamilton, Teacher, (cell) 601-835-6607

First Baptist Church, Starkville – beginning Nov. 5
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with lunch break

Tom Jenkins, Teacher, (C) 662-323-5633

First Baptist Church, Booneville – beginning Oct. 11
6:30-8:30 p.m.

LuAnne Ford, Teacher, (C) 662-728-6272

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison – beginning Oct. 17
6-8 p.m.

Jimmy McCaleb, Teacher, (H) 601-924-1233

The eight courses meet two hours per week.

Each course is eight weeks in length.

SIX STUDENTS MUST BE ENROLLED FOR EACH CLASS TO START.

Each student who completes the eight courses earns a certificate from the Providence Learning Center

Please call the teachers for more information, or contact Jimmy McCaleb (mccaleb@cabinview.net) 515 Mississippi St., Jackson, MS, (292-3273 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 273).

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Sharing the Song of Jesus

MBSO Worship Service

First Baptist Church, Natchez

Sunday, October 9

6:00 p.m.

An Outreach of the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Church Music Department
Steve Murphy, Director

DAVID YOUNG
MBSO CONDUCTOR
CONTRACT CONSULTANT
CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Topeka Church GAs

1. **Topeka Church, Jayess**, held a special Girls in Action (GA) program Sept. 4 featuring (from left) Princess Alyssa Thompson, teacher Johnny Hariel, and Princess Katelyn Reid.

2. **Girls in Action (GAs) of Enterprise Church, Enterprise**, collected school supplies for their Christmas in August project. Pictured are participants.



2. Enterprise Church GAs

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Beulah Church, Lexington**: Homecoming, Sept. 25; 11 a.m.; Fred Toomey, speaker.

2. **Sunrise Church, Carthage**: Homecoming, Sept. 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow; Josh Morea, speaker; Steve Turner, music; no evening service.

3. **North Morton Church, Morton**: Homecoming, Sept. 25; Services 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, sermon, and singing; Kenn Spencer, speaker and music along with Praise and Worship Team.

4. **Damascus Church, Hazlehurst**: Homecoming, Sept. 25; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mike Canoy, speaker; Albert Weeks,

music; Randy Davis, pastor.

5. **Hope Church, Philadelphia**: Homecoming, Sept. 25; Worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Jerry Jones, speaker; William Crenshaw and Faye and Reuben Moore, music; Dennis Duval, pastor.

6. **Rocky Point Church, Leake Assoc.**: Homecoming, Sept. 25; Worship 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Shane McGivney, pastor and speaker; New Born singing at 1:30 p.m.

7. **Mt. Carmel Church, Klein**: Homecoming, Cemetery Day, Sept. 25; 11 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch; Herman Middleton, music; afternoon service featuring Stubbobn Love, followed by cemetery meeting. No night services.

8. **Remus Church, Leake Assoc.**: Revival, Sept. 23-25; Fri-Sat., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:50 a.m.; different speakers each service; Eddie Pilgrim, pastor.

9. **Shiloh Church, Big Creek**: Revival, Sept. 25-27; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Tues., 7 p.m.; Tim Gordon, speaker; special music each service; Johnny Hearn, pastor.

10. **First Church, Lumberton**: Revival, Sept. 25-28; Sunday services begins at 10 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds and a noon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Argile Smith, speaker; Benjy Rigney, music; John Sapp, pastor.

11. **Navilla Church, McComb**: Revival, Sept. 25-28; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; lunch to follow Sun. morning service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sam Roberts, speaker; Adrian Wood, music.

12. **Beulah Church, Lexington**: Revival, Sept. 26-29; 7 p.m. nightly; Gene Richardson, speaker.

13. **Smyrna Church, Hazlehurst**: Homecoming, Oct. 2; Worship service, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; mini-concert after lunch featuring Boyd Germany; Phillip Evans, speaker.



20. New Montpelier Church, Cedarbluff

14. **Ramah Church, McCall Creek**: Revival, Oct. 2-5; Sunday Service 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Night services, 7 p.m.; David Fortenberry, speaker.

15. **Harland Creek Church, Lexington**: Revival, Oct. 3, Joe Cook, speaker; Oct. 17, Barry Prevost, speaker; Oct. 24, James McGuire, speaker; Oct. 24, John Gooch, speaker; each service will begin at 7 p.m.; Roger Richardson, pastor.

16. **Providence Church, Franklin Assoc.**: Revival beginning at 6 p.m. on Oct. 2, 9, and 16; Wiley Reid, speaker; Hubert Greer, music.

17. **Ebenezer Church, Lexington**: Homecoming/Dedication of new worship center, Oct. 9; 10 a.m., premiere of DVD of reconstruction after tornado; Worship,

10:30 a.m.; Lyn Nation, speaker; Skipper Maxwell, music; 11 a.m., Dedication and Prayer; Jay Westbrooks, dedication speaker; dinner on the grounds.

18. **Corinth Church, Heidelberg**: Revival Oct. 2-5. Sun., 10 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Gerrard, speaker.

19. **Harland Creek Church, Lexington**: Homecoming, Oct. 16. Gary Henderson, speaker.

20. **New Montpelier Church, Cedarbluff**: 85th anniversary, Aug. 21; Jerry Rankin, keynote speaker; Steve and Becky Carver and the Tracemen Quartet, music; Jerry King, pastor. Shown, back row, are deacons Chris Stevens, Durell Jones, Rubel West, Jim Murray, and Henry Stevens; front row, King, Rankin, and Bobby Rankin.



1. Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville



2. First Church, Lyman, Gulfport



3. Goodwater Church, Enterprise



4. Shields ordination

1. Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, held a baby dedication. Shown are the participants.

2. First Church, Lyman, Gulfport, recently ordained Kenny Peterman and Kenneth Sumrall as deacons. Shown from left are Peterman, Kim Peterman, Sumrall, Alice Sumrall, and pastor Robby Rikard. Participants of the ordination council are shown in rear.

3. Goodwater Church, Enterprise, held VBS July 16 - 20. Shown are the participants.

4. Elam Church, Yalobusha Association, ordained Douglas Shields as deacon Aug. 21. Presenting the certificate is pastor Bernette Fielder.

5. George/Greene Association sent a work team to Midwestern Seminary on Aug. 28-Sept. 1. The team replaced decking on student apartments to provide primary access to upstairs apartments. Teams members included Joe Kittrell, Walter Sellers, Doug Hatcher, Rusty Dickson, J.P. Burns, Johnny Smith, and Joe Dickerson. They were greeted by seminary President Phil Roberts.

6. Philadelphia Church, Etta, ordained B.J. Harvey on Sept. 11. Pictured are (from left) Sue Harvey, B.J. Harvey, and Pastor Bobby Ervin.

7. Providence Church, Franklin Association, ordained deacons on Aug. 28. Pictured are (from left) Mark Hill, Barney Hill, Pastor Charlie Seale, Maurice Whitehead, and Troy Priest.



5. George/Greene Association



6. Philadelphia Church, Etta



7. Providence Church, Franklin Association

8. Southwestern Seminary alumni will meet at First Church, Jackson, on Nov. 1, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased from Paul Blanchard, Winston Association, P.O. Box 867, Louisville, MS 39339.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Personal Relationship

Galatians 4:1-7; 1 John 1:5-9, 3:1-3

By Huey Dedmon

We are all familiar with the show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." Steven Curtis Chapman, a well known Christian musician, wrote a song that had a lyric that goes something like this: "What if I got a call from Regis, the host of the Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, and he asked me to be on the show and I won a million dollars with two lifelines to spare? I put it in a coffee can and told no one about it." I'm sure you are thinking, yeah, right. Who would win a million dollars and keep it a secret? In our passage this week John writes about the beginning days of Jesus' ministry. In these verses we find that the natural reaction to an encounter with the "Lamb of God" is to tell someone else. Not one of us would

think twice about telling someone we had won a million dollars, but we come up with every excuse not to share the gospel, the greatest news of all. Today we will explore the why, whom, and what of telling the Good News!

Why We Go

John 1:29, 35-39

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." He was totally convinced that Jesus was the "Lamb of God" because he had been told by God that the one whom he saw the dove descend on was Him. John witnessed the descending of the dove on Jesus at Jesus' baptism. Many times our refusal to be a witness for Christ rests in the fact



Dedmon

Many even claim to be "Bible" based in theology. But close examination proves that they are not, because our passage and many others like it from the Bible clearly proclaim that there is only one way and that is through Jesus. In John 14:6 Jesus himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (HCSB) We go because we have had a life changing encounter with Jesus and it's the greatest news ever heard.

Whom to Tell

John 1:40-46

In life there is a progression to

everything and every progression has a starting point. The progression described in verses 40 and following started with John the Baptist. He knew the true Messiah and told Andrew. Andrew found his brother Peter and told him he had found the Messiah. Jesus invited Philip to come follow Him. Immediately Philip found Nathaniel and told him he had found the Messiah. It must be noted here that John the Baptist, Andrew and Philip first found the Messiah for themselves and then invited others to come and meet Him. The progression here is family, friends and neighbors. This past week one of our FAITH team members shared about a friend of his who prayed to receive Christ a couple of weeks ago. They had grown up together in the same town, went to school together, even swam together in the local swimming hole. Over the past two years he had witnessed to his friend several times with what seemed to be no good result. But through the work of the Holy Spirit and his

faithfulness to share with him, his friend and his wife now know Jesus as their Savior.

What Results

John 1:49-51

In these verses we are privileged to hear Jesus tell Nathaniel that even greater things are yet to come. Nathaniel did not know he would be there when 3,000 people would come to Christ, 5,000 people would be fed with a little boy's lunch, or that he would see Jesus walk on the water. He had no idea that he would see Jesus die on the cross and then witness His resurrection and ascension. The greatest result is that many will come to know Jesus as Savior. The results are sometimes not immediate, like my church members friend, but there will be results if we are faithful and diligent in spreading the good news.

Dedmon is associate pastor for education and outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

It's All About Grace

ROMANS 5: 1-11, 15, 20-21

By Marion D. Duncan

"Benefits" is a word that relates to our day and time with major emphases and consequences. One does not hear or talk about the economy long without the mention of "benefits" and the importance they wield in our economy. Employees seek out information about a pension and a 401(k), vacation days, personal days, health and life insurance, and the like seem to reflect the belief that workers deserve benefits. Employers, on the other hand, often take the position that benefits are given, not deserved. Regardless of the discussion of benefits in the secular economy, salvation comes with certain benefits; none of which is deserved nor earned. Like salvation, its benefits come only through God's grace — God's amazing grace.

Paul deeply desired that the Jews in Rome develop an

understanding of the gift of salvation beginning with the realization that salvation brings the assurance that the Christian is at peace with God. This peace is not because of anything man has done, but is available through what Christ has done for any- and everyone, any- and everywhere in the world. The only requirement of man is that he accepts Christ as his savior. Any distance or animosity, war or conflict between man and God is over, has been removed, resolved, settled. Therefore, since we have been justified (enjoying a love relationship with God with no barriers) by the finished work of Christ, and are at peace with God, we have been accepted by God and have access by faith into this haven of grace and eternal hope of glory.

John Phillips relates the story of a little boy who wanted to talk to the king,



Duncan

but was sternly denied entrance through the gate at Buckingham Palace in London. As a well-dressed man approached the gate, he asked the little boy what troubled him.

On hearing the little boy's story, the gentleman offered the child his hand, and they proceeded through the gate to the presentation of arms by the guards, walked along the carpeted halls and right up to the throne of the king. He had taken the hand of the Prince of Wales, the king's son! Through him the child had gained access.

Knowing that it was very difficult to live as a Christian in Rome, Paul assured these Christians that the hope they had in Christ would enable them to deal with the problems that would certainly come their way. He challenged them to rejoice in their sufferings and to rely on their confidence (Christ in them) because their hardships and persecution would result in maturation — a process of

developing. "When affliction is met with fortitude, out of the battle a man emerges stronger, and purer, and better and nearer God." (The Letter to the Romans, by William Barclay).

"... we know that suffering (trouble) produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us..." (Romans 5:3-5a NIV) The word trouble Paul uses means pressure. All that pressure produces perseverance or fortitude — more than endurance, it means the spirit which actively overcomes and conquers the trials and tribulations of life. Fortitude produces character — sterling quality, something out of which every alloy has been eliminated. It refers to a man (woman) who emerges from affliction stronger, and purer, and better and nearer God. Character produces hope — God's loving us with an everlasting love backed by an everlasting power.

God's love for us is proven by His giving His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us in our sin while we were still

denying Him, resisting Him, rebelling against Him, in order that we could have eternal life with Him forever. "God so loved the world..." John 3:16, "Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it," (Ephesians 5:25), "(Christ) loved me and gave himself for me," (Galatians 2:20) God's love is unconditional ("For when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly." v.6), and God's love is incomparable ("Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." v.7-8). Christ giving his life for us (v.9-10) saved us from the penalty of sin; Christ giving his life to us (v.10b) saves us from the power of sin, as it will one day save us from the presence of sin. (Exploring Romans, John Phillips.) Jesus came to show the depth of God's love.

God's grace is always more abundant than sin, and the result is eternal life for believers.

Duncan is a member and pastor's wife from First Church, Macon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

IMB commissions 77 new missionaries

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — For Brent and Lisa Williams (not their real names), love began to blossom in a tropical location — but it sure wasn't a beach or a singles' resort.

"Deep in the jungles of Central America, we found God's passion for the lost, and for each other," Brent said during an appointment service for 77 new International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries at First Church in Orlando on Sept. 14.

Both were serving as single missionaries with another evangelical organization when they met a decade ago. They were following God individually but discovered they could serve Him even more joyfully and effectively together. Now they're returning to missions as a couple.

"As a wife and mother of four, I eagerly accept [God's] call," Lisa declared. "Here am I. Send me. We are His voice proclaiming truth" to the lost.

They aren't the only new missionary couple who found each other while pursuing a higher passion — namely, lifting the name of Christ among the nations. Frank and Judy Bennett (not their real names) were serving in different countries when they encountered each other in an Asian megacity. "God's miracle (is) we met, fell in love, returned to the U.S. three years ago and started a family," she said.

Added her husband: "Now, we're excited to head back to Asia, serving together to expand God's kingdom."

For other couples, God's mission call has opened whole new dimensions in what it means to serve together. Kate Todd's husband Ronald (not their real names) was an IMB staff member when he sensed the Lord's leading to go overseas himself.

"I thought he was crazy," Kate admitted. "I just wanted a 'normal' life, but after working with missionary families in the U.S. and abroad, God showed me a 'new normal' and a peace about going."

The single missionaries appointed in Orlando share the same determination to obey God



COMMITTED — Hundreds came forward in response to an invitation from International Mission Board President Tom Elliff during an appointment service for 77 new missionaries held Sept. 14 at First Church in Orlando, Fla. (IMB photo)

as the couples do, despite the challenge of going it alone.

"Last year, living in a Haitian village devastated by the earthquake, I was asked how I could leave home and live in these conditions," recalled Timothy Stratton (not his real name). "How could I not...?"

His next stop is a region of the world containing many of the largest and least-reached Muslim people groups.

Lauren Moses (not her real name) served as a two-year missionary journeyman in the same region several years ago. She's going back, she hopes, for the long term.

"Even in the very difficult days, I had the peace that comes without understanding," Moses said. "I knew that I was completely where I needed to be... I realized this was not just a scary foreign city, but home to Muslim women I had grown to love. I am God's heart to these women."

The new missionaries, commissioned by IMB trustees during the service, will work among people groups stretched across four continents. After they spoke of their calling, IMB President Tom Elliff put their individual stories into perspective.

"God always associates our faith with our behavior," he said. "Faith is not works, but faith

works. That's what we read in the Scripture... Read Hebrews 11, the great roll call of men and women of faith. They didn't make [the list] because of what they thought or how they felt. They didn't make it because they stayed someplace and nodded in assent. They're in the roll call because they did what God said."

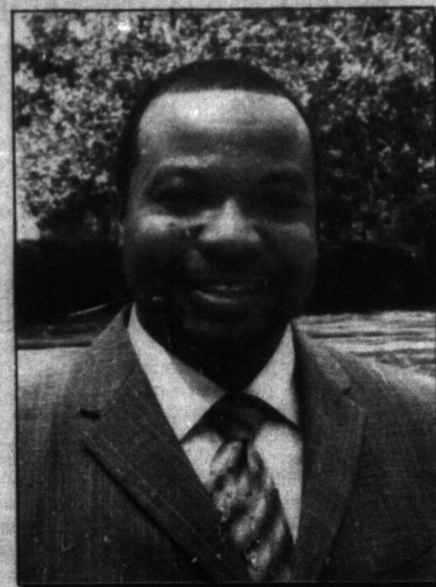
It was the same with Jesus, Elliff reminded listeners. Christ didn't stand on the outskirts of cities, pronounce a blanket healing or judgment, and head for the next place. He personally went into the dirtiest, darkest and most painful places and said, "Stretch out your hand" to the leper, and "Take up your bed and walk" to the crippled man.

"These [new missionaries] are saying: 'I'm not interested in carving out some little comfortable spot in the world and lulling myself to sleep. I am interested in going to the hardest places,'" Elliff explained.

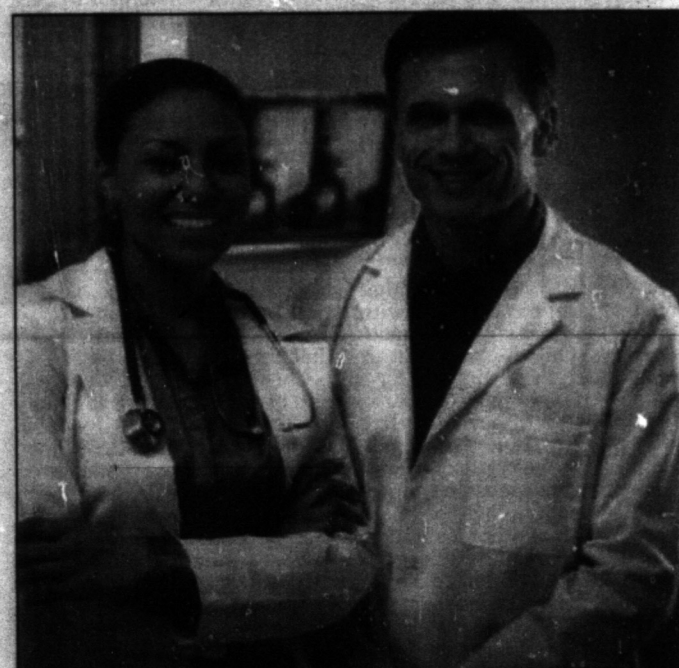
"We talk about these unengaged, unreached people groups — 3,800 peoples in the world who, as far as we know, we're unaware of any strategy to get boots on the ground among them to evangelize, disciple and plant a reproducing church," Elliff said. "but what ought to excite you is that this is the last 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups in this world."

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Delta Mu Delta, the international honor society for business, has recognized Mississippi College Accelerated Degree Program student Calvin Thigpen Jr. as an outstanding student and awarded him a \$500 scholarship. He will graduate in May 2012 and prepare for the CPA exam.



1. Thigpen



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STATE CHANGES

1. Sherman Church, Tupelo, has called Gregg Thomas as pastor effective Sept. 1. He is pictured with his wife Karen.
2. Marlo Seaney wishes to continue his Christian work in a pastoral setting. He has pastored six churches in Mississippi and is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He can be reached at (601) 939-0684.



1. Gregg and Karen Thomas

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